December 2, 2012

Governor John Kitzhaber
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon  97301-4047

Dear Governor Kitzhaber:

As one of Oregon’s newest residents, it is my pleasure to send this correspondence and express my appreciation for your leadership and your continued focus on preserving and accentuating this state’s public policy priorities. Your efforts to keep the state moving in a positive direction are most appreciated.

The circumstances which lead to my relocation from Montana to Oregon, most recently, were partly based on my affinity for the region, but also predicated upon this state’s drastic economic decline and the associated devaluation of real estate values. Although unfortunate for some, it has made it possible for others, like me, to live out their dream of becoming an Oregon resident. Several years ago when I planned to retire here after leaving the California State University, I discovered that I could not afford it. Now with the recent reversal of fortune and my enhanced ability to afford Oregon property after a five-year stay in Montana’s Bakkan region, I see that my decision of moving to the state was well founded. Oregon still possesses all the cultural, social, environmental, and political attributes that I desire but unfortunately, it still suffers from a sagging economy. I am quite certain that this deficiency will be corrected with purposive strategies and sustained dedication to advancing the state’s public policy to enhance the business climate. Now that I am here, I would naturally like to lend my talents to assuring that the state advances in the economic arena and toward that objective, I respectfully submit the attached.

My purpose in sending you this letter is to call to your attention a program that you might consider advantageous for the state, as you ponder your options in moving the economy forward. As we both know, state governments can set the stage for advancement by public policy initiatives that open the door for commercial enterprise and prosperity. As you will note in the attached document, I recently proposed an innovative energy strategy to the Montana-Dakota Energy Alliance, which may prove extremely advantageous to the entire State of Oregon. I am certain that the methodology proposed within the project would help immensely in mitigating part of the economic challenges that we currently face. Both Montana and North Dakota are so focused on gas and oil recovery that the program I proposed didn’t gain much traction, but this could work out favorably for the State of Oregon, which has few such resources. If done correctly, such a program would also promote sustained and thoughtful growth in this enterprise, which isn’t prevalent in either Montana or North Dakota.

As you will discover in the attachment, I originally prepared and delivered this project proposal for broadening our nation’s energy strategy by employing state-based and regional energy development efforts specifically in hydrogen production. The proposal and the associated speech were presented at the request of the American Petroleum Institute as well as the Montana – Dakota Energy Alliance in 2009. As you might well imagine, proposing a hydrogen based solution to the transportation fuel challenge wasn’t immediately embraced by the energy industry, despite the science and business sense behind it. The rush for oil in the Bakkan remains easy pickings for companies that simply cannot think outside the box or marshal the conviction to shift directions in a cooperative venture that involves collaboration with other industries. Eventually, they will come around and realize that they are in the energy production business and not simply the oil business, but such a transition will require a new breed of leadership to show the way.

Rather than elaborate on the merits of the project, the strategy, and the impact of such an enterprise within this letter, I will let the attachment speak for itself. I have yet to modify the proposal to reflect Oregon’s vast available resources that could be devoted to the endeavor, but as you can imagine, the prospects here, in this state, significantly dwarf those available to both Montana and North Dakota. The result could be a pilot program, followed by statewide adoption of a broad initiative that not only solves the region’s energy needs, but which serves as a beacon of hope for the rest of the nation and the world. The number of well-paying jobs that would be created in the state could be staggering. I have done some preliminary work on adapting the numbers to reflect Oregon’s potential, but I thought it prudent to collaborate with state officials prior to modifying the document.

After you have had an opportunity to digest the information contained in the white paper and you have had some time to discuss it with your staff and political colleagues, I would be delighted to speak with you and members of your team to elaborate further on my vision. There are innumerable possibilities for advancing such an enterprise and all it takes is some imagination and conviction to make this program, or something similar, a reality.

Should you find this proposal meritorious and should you have an interest in discussing it privately, I am at your disposal. I can be reached at (541) 316-1615, or by email at halcampbell@live.com.

With Best Regards,

**Hal Campbell, Ph.D.**

Professor Emeritus – CalState Humboldt

And Proud New Resident of the State of Oregon

6700 NW River Springs Road

Redmond, Oregon 97756

(541) 316-1615